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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORTPLD
479

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Soviet Air Exercise Area
Near MosonszentjánosPLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.) Oct 1953

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REPORT NO. 25X1A

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NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

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25X1X

1. There is a large air exercise and target range of the Soviet Air Force near the village of Mosonszentjános, with a circumference of 3.5 km. The boundaries are regularly patrolled and marked with signs forbidding entry.
2. Only Soviet planes are allowed over the area and all ground personnel is Soviet.
3. During the summer various exercises were carried on daily, and some at night. It is said that the planes coming here are those stationed in Austria. Jet planes have not been observed. The planes taking part usually fly at 3,000 to 5,000 m and come from the south and west. Exercises are carried on regardless of weather.
4. Bombers frequently appear in closed formations and accompanied by fighters. Occasionally other fighters make simulated attacks on them, whereupon the bomber formations break up, the planes operating independently.
5. In bombing practice a type of cement bomb is used, which makes a white smoke. When live ammunition is used, duds are frequent, but this appears to be because the bombs employed are old. There is a small formation of sappers at the area whose duty it is to deal with these dud bombs.
6. Firing exercises are not held here but on the Neusiedler Lake.
7. Exercises include formation bombing (3-12 machines) both horizontal and dive bombing; carpet bombing in close formation with small live bombs; bombing of railroad lines and road crossings, in which the planes invariably follow the line.

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